Corruption in PDS

†*92. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains allocated under the Public Distribution System are not reaching the lower strata of people and the poor and major part of the same is directly reaching open market at high prices through black market;

(b) whether Government are aware that most of the foodgrains under this scheme is going to big companies;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any new scheme for preventing this corruption prevalent in PDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that PDS has completely failed in the country and only middlemen and big companies are its beneficiaries; and

(f) if so, action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for allocation of foodgrains within the State, identification of eligible families and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible families through the fair price shops rests with the State/UT Governments.

The State/UT Governments are mandated to ensure that the foodgrains allocated under the TPDS reach the targeted families and no leakages/diversions take place.

Details of offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat) under TPDS against the allocations made to State/UT Governments during the last five years are given below.

(In lakh tons)

Offtake of foodgrains (rice & wheat) during the 10th Plan Period (All India)				
2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
200.66	239.31	293.55	311.05	313.69

These details of foodgrains lifted by the State/UT Governments indicate an increasing trend and a larger coverage.

However, there have been complaints about shortcomings in TPDS. So for independent feedback, the Targeted Public Distribution System was got evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission and ORG Marg, New Delhi.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Their reports received in year 2005 reported that there were diversions/leakages of foodgrains, inclusion and exclusion errors in identifying targeted beneficiaries and operations of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) were not financially viable.

Therefore, to strengthen the TPDS, including curbing of leakages and diversion, though no new scheme has been introduced by the Government, a nine-point action plan was formulated in 2006. This is being implemented by States/UT Governments. Its implementation is being monitored by the Central Government. Required action is being taken by the State Government and UT Administration against those found indulging in malpractices.

Additionally, a revised Citizens' Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

Coverage under Crop Insurance Scheme

*93. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of coverage at present in terms of States as well as population under Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) what has been the number of beneficiaries and amount of benefit given in the last one year, alongwith the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the coverage of the scheme to more States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The details of coverage of States, farmers claims, amount paid and farmers benefited during 2005-06 under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The NAIS is open to all States and Union Territories for coverage. At present 23 States and 2 Union Territories are implementing the scheme. The Government of India and the Implementing Agency *i.e.* Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC), from time to time, keep on persuading the non-implementing States/UTs for participation in the scheme.

Statement

State-wise coverage of farmers, claims paid and farmers benefited under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (2005-06)

Sl. No.	State	Farmers Covered	Total Claims (Rs. Lakhs)	Farmers Benefited
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2247535	49692.97	672044
2.	Assam	22535	131.69	4737
3.	Bihar	409946	15392.55	228887